DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Peter Leal on January 5, 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT
Serial Number: 10/799,860   Dkt: 2730.0973X3
Filing Date: March 12, 2004
Title: Method and an apparatus to screen electronic communication

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

Using one or more computer processors, extracting URLs from electronic communication; and

analyzing the URLs extracted to determine whether the electronic communication is of a first predetermined category, said analyzing comprising generating one or more signatures using a length of the electronic communication and the URLs extracted.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein extracting the URLs comprises extracting at least one of a hostname, a domain name, a subsection of a domain relative link, and an Internet Protocol (IP) address from the electronic communication.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising performing a predetermined operation on the electronic communication if the electronic communication is determined to be of the first predetermined category.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing the URLs comprises:
      selecting one or more of the one or more signatures generated; and
      comparing the selected signatures against a plurality of predetermined signatures generated from a plurality of known electronic communications of the first predetermined category.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein generating the one or more signatures further comprises:
      computing a first hash based on the length of the electronic communication; computing a second hash based on the URL's extracted; and generating a signature by concatenating the first hash to the second hash.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein generating the one or more signatures further comprises using at least one of the extracted URLs as at least one of the one or more signatures.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein generating the one or more signatures further comprises generating the one or more signatures based on at least one of a protocol, a hostname, a domain name, a subsection of a domain relative link, and an Internet Protocol (IP) address from the electronic communication.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising classifying the electronic communication to be of the first predetermined category if one of the selected signatures matches one of the plurality of predetermined signatures.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the plurality of predetermined signatures is derived from a plurality of electronic documents reported via a collaborative submission mechanism.

10.   (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium that provides instructions that, if executed by a processor, will cause the processor to perform operations comprising:
        generating one or more signatures of electronic communication using a length of the electronic communication and URLs in the electronic communication; and
        determining whether the electronic communication is of a first predetermined category using the one or more signatures generated.

11.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein determining whether the electronic communication is of the first predetermined category comprises:

selecting one or more of the one or more signatures generated based on a plurality of predetermined criteria;

comparing the selected signatures against a plurality of predetermined signatures; and

classifying the electronic communication to be of the first predetermined category if one of the selected signatures matches one of the plurality of predetermined signatures.

12.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein selecting one or more of the one or more signatures generated comprises selecting a signature if the signature represents a domain that was registered within a predetermined period of time.

13.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein selecting one or more of the one or more signatures generated comprises selecting signatures representing one or more of a protocol, a hostname, a domain name, and a subsection of a domain relative link having a predetermined string of letters.

14.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein the operations further comprise extracting the URLs from the electronic communication.

15.   (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a plurality of databases to store a plurality of predetermined signatures of a plurality of known electronic communications of a first predetermined category; and

a server, coupled to the plurality of databases, including:

a memory device to store a plurality of instructions; and

a processor, coupled to the memory device, to retrieve the plurality of instructions from the memory device and to perform operations in response to the plurality of instructions, the operations comprising:

extracting URLs from electronic communication generating one or more signatures using a length of the electronic communication and the URLs extracted; and

comparing one or more of the one or more signatures generated against the plurality of predetermined signatures stored in the plurality of databases to determine whether the electronic communication is of the first predetermined category.

16.   (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the URLs comprises at least one of a hostname, a domain name, a subsection of a domain relative link, and an Internet Protocol (IP) address.

17.   (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the operations further comprise selecting the one or more of the plurality of signatures based on a plurality of predetermined criteria.

18.   (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the operations further comprise performing a predetermined operation on the electronic communication if the electronic communication is determined to be of the first predetermined category.

19.   (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising a database, coupled to the server, to store a plurality of reports from which the plurality of predetermined signatures are generated.

20.   (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the plurality of databases are in a remote location from the server.

Allowable Subject Matter

2.   Claims 1-20 are allowed.

3.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The BPAI

held on 11/10/10 that Applicant's "length of the electronic communication" is limited to a

number, based on the equation in paragraph [0021] of Applicant's specification. Based

on an interpretation of length as being limited to a number, as supported by the

equation in paragraph [0021] and upheld by the BPAI, Aronson failed to teach

"analyzing the URLs extracted to determine whether the electronic communication is of

a first predetermined category, said analyzing comprising generating one or more

signatures using a length of the electronic communication and the URLs extracted."

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Jeffrey R. Swearingen whose telephone number is

(571)272-3921. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on 571-272-3868. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jeffrey R. Swearingen
Examiner
Art Unit 2445

/Jeffrey R. Swearingen/
Examiner, Art Unit 2445